

PRESENTATION OF THE CLAIMS

Please replace all prior claims in the present application with the following version of the claims in which claims 17, 19, 22-27 are currently amended and claims 28-35 are newly introduced. No new matter has been introduced.

1-16. (Previously cancelled)

17. (Currently amended) A device facilitating the heating of items, the device comprising:

a collapsible frame for suspending an item above a heat source, the frame comprising a plurality of vertical sides, at least one of the vertical sides being designated as a first side having user-selectable variable construction and the sides other than the designated first side collectively constituting the remainder of the frame;

wherein the first side having user-selectable variable construction is constructed of at least one panel selected by a user from among a plurality of panels available for constructing the first side by being removably attached and ~~wherein the panel is designed to be removably attached~~ to the remainder of the frame[.];

and wherein the remainder of the frame attaches to a user-selected combination of multiple ones of the available panels vertically stacked along the first side.

18. (Previously presented) The device of claim 17 wherein the device operates in at least one user-selectable in-use configuration wherein the first side having user-selectable variable construction is constructed with fewer than all of the available panels that are able to be used on a single side concurrently and any unused panels from the plurality of available panels are entirely excluded from the construction of the first side having user-selectable variable construction.

Appl. No. 10/684,312

19. (Currently amended) The device of claim 17 wherein the at least one panel selected by the user directly supports a transverse member for suspending an item above the heat source within the frame.

20. (Previously presented) The device of claim 17 wherein the at least one panel selected by the user is attached to the remainder of the frame along at least two different edges of the panel when installed in the designated first side.

21. (Previously presented) The device of claim 17 wherein the at least one panel selected by the user attaches to at least two different components of the remainder of the frame.

22. (Currently amended) The device of claim 17 wherein a vertical position at which the at least one panel selected by the user is attached to the remainder of the frame is selectable by the user from among more than one possible such position of attachment.

23. (Currently amended) The device of claim 22 wherein the position of attachment of the panel changes at least one of: a proportion of the first side that is substantially enclosed, which portion of the first side is substantially enclosed by the panel, or a height at which a transverse member, directly supported by at least one panel, is supported within the frame.

24. (Currently amended) The device of claim 17 wherein the first side having user-selectable variable construction is constructed of a first quantity of panels to establish a first value of a variable attribute and alternatively constructed of a second quantity of panels to establish a second value of the variable attribute, the variable attribute being at least one of: a proportion of the first side that is substantially enclosed or a height at which a transverse member, directly supported by one of the panels, is supported within the frame.

25. (Currently amended) The device of claim 17 wherein the available panels exhibit different vertical heights when applied to the frame and wherein the designated first side is selectively constructed by a user to include a panel of specific height by which the user adjusts at least one of: how much of the first side of user-selectable variable construction is substantially enclosed or at what height a transverse member is supported within the frame.

26. (Currently amended) The device of claim 17 further comprising:

a transverse member for supporting the item to be heated;

wherein the first side having user-selectable variable construction is constructed to comprise a first panel and a second panel, the first and second panels having different heights, wherein, in attaching the first and second panels to the remainder of the frame, the first panel is placed above the second panel to support the transverse member at a first height and the first panel is placed below the second panel to support the transverse member at a second height different from the first height.

27. (Currently amended) The device of claim 17 further comprising:

a transverse member for supporting the item to be heated;

wherein the first side having user-selectable variable construction comprises first and second panels, both concurrently attached to the remainder of the frame, and [a] the transverse member is user-selectable to either be directly supported by the first panel in accordance with a first user-selectable configuration or to be directly supported by the second panel in accordance with a second user-selectable configuration.

28. (New) A device facilitating the heating of items, the device comprising:
- at least one grill for supporting an item to be heated; and
 - a collapsible frame for suspending the grill above a heat source, the frame having a plurality of vertical sides, at least one of the vertical sides being designated as a first side having user-selectable variable construction and the sides other than the designated first side collectively constituting the remainder of the frame;
- wherein the first side having user-selectable variable construction is constructed of at least one panel selected by a user from among a plurality of panels available for constructing the first side by being removably attached to the remainder of the frame;
- and wherein the at least one panel directly supports the grill;
- and wherein the remainder of the frame attaches to at least one combination of multiple ones of the available panels vertically stacked along the first side.
29. (New) The device of claim 28 wherein the device operates in at least one user-selectable in-use configuration wherein the first side having user-selectable variable construction is constructed with fewer than all of the available panels that are able to be used on the first side concurrently and any unused panels from the plurality of available panels are entirely excluded from the construction of the first side having user-selectable variable construction.
30. (New) The device of claim 28 wherein a vertical position at which the at least one panel selected by the user is attached to the remainder of the frame is selectable by the user from among more than one possible such position of attachment.
31. (New) The device of claim 30 wherein the position of attachment of the panel changes at least one of: a proportion of the first side that is substantially enclosed, which portion of the first side is substantially enclosed by the panel, or a height above the heat source at which the grill is supported by the frame.

32. (New) The device of claim 28 wherein the first side having user-selectable variable construction is constructed of a first quantity of panels to establish a first value of a variable attribute and alternatively constructed of a second quantity of panels to establish a second value of the variable attribute, the variable attribute being at least one of: a proportion of the first side that is substantially enclosed or a height above the heat source at which the grill is supported by the frame.

33. (New) The device of claim 28 wherein the available panels exhibit different vertical heights when applied to the frame and wherein the designated first side is selectively constructed by a user to include a panel of specific height by which the user adjusts at least one of: how much of the first side of user-selectable variable construction is substantially enclosed or at what height the grill is supported by the frame.

34. (New) The device of claim 28 wherein the first side having user-selectable variable construction is constructed to comprise a first panel and a second panel, the first and second panels having different heights, wherein, in attaching the first and second panels to the remainder of the frame, the first panel is placed above the second panel to support the grill at a first height and the first panel is placed below the second panel to support the grill at a second height different from the first height.

35. (New) The device of claim 28 wherein the first side having user-selectable variable construction comprises first and second panels, both concurrently attached to the remainder of the frame, and the grill is user-selectable to either be directly supported by the first panel in accordance with a first user-selectable configuration or to be directly supported by the second panel in accordance with a second user-selectable configuration.